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# **Studies in the News**

### California -- One Hundred Years Ago

March 1908 "In no city in the country is more cleanliness shown in preparing fresh meat for consumption than in Los Angeles. This was true even before the rigid inspection laws for packing-houses throughout the United States were instituted by the government. No piece of meat leaves the large meat plants without being inspected by efficient inspectors. Within the city limits are cattle yards which daily accommodate from 5000 to 8000 cattle, 10,000 to 15,000 sheep and as many pigs. ... Of course, the killing is an unpleasant sight, but there is no bungling and no cruelty... One at a time the cattle are driven into a narrow space and a man of powerful build, swinging a great sledge, strikes each a single blow between the eyes. He never needs to strike twice." Los Angeles Times (March 8, 1908) pg. II10.

1908 "Handlers of California oranges are enthusiastic over the fruit that is coming forward now. The improved methods of picking, assorting and packing which have been introduced this season help in the sales in New York and have assisted materially in developing the present growing business. Moreover, the prejudice which existed in some quarters against the western product has disappeared. No longer does one hear criticism. Whether West India fruit will be inspected is not stated. Some are of the opinion that everything which comes from those countries should be examined as such action would give some measure of protection to buyers, something that has never been vouchsafed to them. California fruit does not require inspection." *Los Angeles Times* (May 17, 1908) pg. III5.

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### **Introduction to Studies in the News**

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the State Library's <u>California</u>

Research Bureau to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at <a href="www.library.ca.gov/sitn">www.library.ca.gov/sitn</a>

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261; <a href="mailto:cslinfo@library.ca.gov">cslinfo@library.ca.gov</a>) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

### **GANGS**

Blueprint for a Comprehensive Citywide Anti-Gang Strategy. By Sjoberg Evaschenk Consulting. Prepared for the Los Angeles City Controller. (The Controller, Los Angeles, California) February 14, 2008.

["Even as Los Angeles leaders pledge to combat gang violence, a dysfunctional city bureaucracy is spending millions of dollars on unproven programs and is failing to coordinate with schools, law enforcement and social agencies. The report assails the city for taking a hodgepodge approach to youth and gang services. The city scatters oversight across more than a dozen departments that duplicate efforts and award contracts to antigang programs without establishing goals.... The controller urges the city to place everything under a single entity in the Mayor's office, who would have the authority and visibility to bring about change while bearing direct responsibility for progress." Los Angeles Times (February 14, 2008) 1.] [Request #S08-11-1788]

Report. 161 p.

http://www.lacity.org/ctr/audits/Final Report 2-14-08.pdf

Abstract. 29 p.

http://www.lacity.org/ctr/audits/Final\_Abstract\_2-14-08-1.pdf

### **IMMIGRATION**

Crime, Corrections, and California: What Does Immigration Have to Do with It? By Kristin F. Butcher, Wellesley College, and Anne Morrison Piehl, Rutgers University. (Public Policy Institute of California, San Francisco, California) February 2008. 24 p.

Full text at: <a href="http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/cacounts/CC\_208KBCC.pdf">http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/cacounts/CC\_208KBCC.pdf</a>

["Immigrants in California are far less likely to land in prison than their U.S.-born counterparts, a finding that defies the perception that immigration and crime are connected. Foreign-born residents make up 35 percent of the state's overall population, but only 17 percent of the adult prison population. Noncitizen men from Mexico between the ages of 18 and 40, which the study indicated were more likely to be in the country illegally, were eight times less likely to be in a 'correctional setting.'... While immigrants often have lower levels of education and higher poverty rates, which are normally associated with higher crimes rates, other factors are probably contributing to the underrepresentation among the foreign-born in state prisons." San Francisco Chronicle (February 26, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-11-1806]

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#### SEX OFFENDERS

An Assessment of Current Management Practices of Adult Sex Offenders in California: Initial Report. By the Sex Offender Management Board. (The Board, Sacramento, California) January 2008. 225 p.

Full text at: http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/News/docs/SOMB%20Report022108.pdf

["Residency restrictions imposed by Jessica's Law have caused hundreds of sex offenders in California to become homeless, and the problem will get considerably worse in the years to come if changes aren't made. The report backs up a growing concern expressed by some law enforcement officials: Sex offenders are more likely to commit new crimes if they have no place to live.... The restrictions severely limit housing options in urban areas, while the state lacks transitional housing for parolees and does not have any program to help them find a place to live.... The report pointed out that California is one of just a few states without a program that has been proved to help reduce recidivism: treatment of sex offenders in prison." San Diego Union-Tribune (February 22, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-11-1810]

### **CULTURE AND SOCIETY**

### RELIGION

U.S. Religious Landscape Survey. By the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. (The Forum, Washington, DC) February 2008.

[" Americans are leaving the religious beliefs they were brought up with, often switching to other faiths or abandoning them altogether. The survey is considered the most comprehensive report on religious identification of Americans in recent years. More than 35,000 people across the United States were interviewed for it. The study reflects a diverse and fluid U.S. religious population, one that is still overwhelmingly Christian -- 78 percent -- but will soon lose its status as a majority-Protestant country. In the 1960s, two-thirds of the U.S. population was Protestant; the number is now at 51 percent and falling....The group that had the greatest net gain in the survey was those who identified themselves as unaffiliated." Sacramento Bee (February 26, 2007) A1.]
[Request #S08-11-1805]

Survey. 143 p.

http://religions.pewforum.org/pdf/report-religious-landscape-study-full.pdf

Summary. Various pagings. <a href="http://religions.pewforum.org/reports">http://religions.pewforum.org/reports</a>

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## **DEMOGRAPHY**

### **POPULATION**

U.S. Population Projections: 2005-2050. By Jeffrey S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn, Pew Research Center, Social and Demographic Trends. (The Center, Washington, DC) February 11, 2008. 55 p.

Full text at: http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/85.pdf

["Immigrants, and their children and grandchildren, will push the U.S. population to 438 million people by 2050, accounting for 82 percent, or 117 million, of the people America will add in the coming decades. No ethnic group will be in the majority, with whites at 47 percent of the population and Hispanics growing to just under one-third. Asians will nearly double their share of the national population, to about 9 percent, while blacks will hold steady at 13 percent of Americans. And sometime between 2020 and 2025, the share of immigrants in the U.S. population will surpass its historic

peak of about 15 percent, a point last reached between 1890 and 1910. By 2050, about 19 percent of the population is projected to be immigrants." San Jose Mercury News (February 12, 2008) 1.] [Request #S08-11-1796]

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### **ECONOMY**

### **INCOME DISTRIBUTION**

Getting Ahead or Losing Ground: Economic Mobility in America. By Julia B. Isaacs and others, The Brookings Institution. (Economic Mobility Project, Washington, DC) February 2008. 120 p.

Full text at:

http://www.economicmobility.org/assets/pdfs/Economic Mobility in America Ful l.pdf

["Economic mobility, the chance that children of the poor or middle class will climb up the income ladder, has not changed significantly over the last three decades. The authors warned that widening gaps in higher education between rich and poor, whites and minorities, could soon lead to a downturn in opportunities for the poorest families. .... There is some good news. The study highlights the powerful role that college can have in helping people change their station in life. Someone born into a family in the lowest fifth of earners who graduates from college has a 19 percent chance of joining the highest fifth of earners in adulthood and a 62 percent chance of joining the middle class or better." New York Times (February 20, 2008) 1.] [Request #S08-11-1791]

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# LOS ANGELES

Economic Forecast and Industry Outlook for California & Southern California including the National & International Setting: 2008-2009. By Jack Kyser, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, and others. (The Corporation, Los Angeles, California) February 2008. 71 p.

Full text at: <a href="http://www.laedc.org/reports/Forecast-2008-02.pdf">http://www.laedc.org/reports/Forecast-2008-02.pdf</a>

["An anemic housing market and strike-battered entertainment sector may drag on the Southern California economy, but the region will still remain strong enough to avoid recession through 2009.... The local economy will benefit from the diversity of its employment base.... Five jobs sectors -- business and professional services, commercial aerospace, biomedicine, technology and tourism - received grades ranging from A-plus to A-

minus.... Still, tepid job growth across all sectors is keeping Kyser on a recession watch.... 'For a lot of people, it's going to feel like a recession,' Kyser said. 'In a lot of areas, it's going to be very painful.'" Los Angeles Daily News (February 20, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-11-1808]

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### SILICON VALLEY

2008 Index of Silicon Valley. By Doug Henton and others, Collaborative Economics. (Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network, San Jose, California) February 2008. 68 p.

Full text at:

 $\frac{http://www.jointventure.org/publicatons/index/2008Index/2008\%20Silicon\%20Valley\%20Index.pdf}{}$ 

["Silicon Valley is uncommonly resistant to America's broader economic troubles but is feeling the strain of uncertainty and financial turbulence.... The valley's tech economy has minted many thousands of millionaires and also has led to a relatively high cost of living. Yet the eroding public schools system and rising social ills raise questions about whether the valley is nurturing a 'home-grown' workforce capable of replacing retiring baby boomers. The index contains an array of data concerning economics, demographics, education, crime, drug abuse and aspects of society." San Jose Mecury News (February 19, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-11-1786]

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### **EDUCATION**

# **GRADUATION RATES**

Which California Schools Have the Most Dropouts? AND: Which California School Districts Have the Most Dropouts? By Susan Rotermund, California Dropout Research Project, University of California, Santa Barbara. (The Project, Santa Barbara, California) February 2008.

["Schools designed as a last resort for keeping kids in school are in fact seeing an alarming dropout rate....The report found that a disproportionate number of California's dropouts are coming from non-traditional schools that include charters, continuation schools and alternative programs. Such schools produced more than 40 percent of the state's dropouts in 2005-06, despite enrolling only 12 percent of the high school population.... The report studied the question of which schools produce the most dropouts. The

answer -- not surprising to many -- was non-traditional schools that serve an already struggling population." Sacramento Bee (February 21, 2008) 1.] [Request #S08-11-1803]

Which Schools? 2 p.

http://lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/download.php?file=statisticalbrief-7.pdf

List of schools. Various pagings <a href="http://www.lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/sb7table.php">http://www.lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/sb7table.php</a>

Which School Districts? 2 p.

http://lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/download.php?file=statisticalbrief-8.pdf

List of school districts. Various pagings <a href="http://www.lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/sb8table.php">http://www.lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/sb8table.php</a>

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#### **GRADUATION RATES**

Solving California's Dropout Crisis, By Russell W. Rumberger, California Dropout Research Project, University of California, Santa Barbara. (The Project, Santa Barbara, California) February 2008. 24 p.

Full text at: <a href="http://www.lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/download.php?file=policyreport.pdf">http://www.lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/download.php?file=policyreport.pdf</a>

["About 170,000 California ninth-graders in 2002-03 dropped out of high school or failed to graduate with their classes four years later. Only about two-thirds graduated on time, with rates even lower for African American, Latino and American Indian students. The trend repeats year after year, and costs the state billions in lost income and economic activity, as well as higher crime and welfare expenses... The dropout research project recommended a range of solutions including better state data collection, the creation of 'lighthouse districts' to research and model successful anti-dropout programs, re-examining graduation requirements, and reforming middle schools to stop early patterns of academic failure." Sacramento Bee (February 28, 2008) A3.]

[Request #S08-11-1816]

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### **EMPLOYMENT**

### YOUTH

The Collapse of the National Teen Job Market and the Case for An Immediate Youth Jobs Creation Program. By Andrew Sum and others, Center for Labor Market Studies. (The Center, Boston, California) February 2008. 9 p.

#### Full text at:

http://www.nyec.org/content/documents/February\_Report\_on\_a\_Job\_Creation\_Program\_for\_Teens.pdf

["The nation's teens (16-19) have experienced declining employment rates since the late fall of 2006. Their annual average employment rate declined in 2007 to a new record low for the post-World War II period, and they have failed to capture any substantive share of net new job growth across the nation since 2003.... Declines in teen employment rates over the past seven years have been widespread across age, gender, race-ethnic, educational attainment, household income, and geographic subgroups.... Even the conservative official estimates of open unemployment, hidden unemployment, and underemployment among teens in 2007 reveal a substantial pool of youth who either wished to work but were left jobless or were employed part-time though they sought full-time jobs."] [Request #S08-11-1869]

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# **ENERGY**

### **ENERGY CONSERVATION**

The Case for Investing in Energy Productivity. By Diana Farrell and others, McKinsey Global Institute. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) February 2008. 36 p.

#### Full text at:

http://www.mckinsey.com/mgi/reports/pdfs/Investing\_Energy\_Productivity/Investing\_Energy\_Productivity.pdf

["Squeezing more productivity out of the energy that industries, homes and vehicles burn is the most economical way to stifle rising energy demand and control output of planet-warming gases.... Slowing global energy waste at industries like pulp and paper, oil refining and steel, homes and cars could more than halve global energy demand growth from current levels of 2.2 percent a year. Initial global investments would total about \$170 billion per year. But they would pay for themselves through energy savings, with an average internal return rate of 17 percent." Reuters (February 15, 2008) 1.] [Request #S08-11-1784]

#### WIND POWER

California Offshore Wind Energy Potential. By Michael Dvorak and others, Stanford University. (The University, Palo Alto, California) December 13, 2007. 18 p.

Full text at: <a href="http://www.stanford.edu/~dvorak/papers/offshore-wind-ca-analysis-awea-2007.pdf">http://www.stanford.edu/~dvorak/papers/offshore-wind-ca-analysis-awea-2007.pdf</a>

["Despite the steep bathymetry off the California coast, significant development potential exists for offshore wind.... This study also qualitatively looked at transmission capacity and population centers to build a context for the offshore wind resource in California. We found that Northern California had the best wind resource but has the least transmission capacity. Southern California's wind resource is significantly reduced during the summer months, due to the location of the Pacific High. In sum, between 26% and 112% of California's electricity needs could be provided with offshore wind energy alone."]
[Request #S08-11-1748]

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# **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

City of Berkeley Climate Action Plan. By the City of Berkeley. (The City, Berkeley, California) January 2008.

["Homes and businesses in Berkeley would be required to produce as much energy as they use by 2050 under an ambitious city plan that aims to combat climate change. The plan also envisions a city where residents and workers rely on public transit, walking and biking. Cars would run on alternative fuels and electricity. No waste would be sent to landfills. And most of the food eaten in Berkeley would be produced within a few hundred miles. These measures and goals, which would be realized in stages over the next four decades, are part of the blueprint proposed by city staff members to meet a voter-approved mandate to reduce Berkeley's greenhouse gases 80 percent by 2050." San Francisco Chronicle (January 29, 2008) 1.] [Request #S08-11-1760]

Plan. Various pagings.

http://www.berkeleyclimateaction.org/Content/10042/Chapter1Introduction.html

Executive Summary. 7 p.

http://www.berkeleyclimateaction.org/docManager/1000000133/CAP\_Exec Summary.pdf

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### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

# **NATIONAL PARKS**

The Fate, Transport and Ecological Impacts of Airborne Contaminants in Western National Parks. By Dixon Landers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and others. (The Agency, Corvalis, Oregon) January 2008.

["The fallout of industrialization has been detected in the forests of the western United States, where some of the country's most pristine sanctuaries are apparently coated with dangerous levels of toxic chemicals..... Three California parks were included in the study -- Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon and Mount Lassen Volcanic national parks. Sequoia and Kings Canyon was one of the three worst in terms of the amount of toxic chemicals found within its boundaries.... The most disturbing part of the study was the discovery of mercury, apparently from coal-fired power plants, PCBs from industrial plants and the banned insecticides dieldrin and DDT." San Francisco Chronicle (February 28, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-11-1819]

Report. Various pagings.

http://www.nature.nps.gov/air/studies/air\_toxics/wacap.cfm

Executive Summary. 16 p.

http://www.nature.nps.gov/air/studies/air\_toxics/docs/2008FinalReport/WACAP\_Report\_Vol\_I\_Main\_Chapters/WACAP\_ExecutiveSummary.pdf

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### WATER RESOURCES

Preparing for an Uncertain Future: Climate in the Inland Empire: Identifying Robust Water-Management Strategies. By David G. Groves and others, RAND. (RAND, Santa Monica, California) 2008.

["Water managers face significant uncertainties about future water-management conditions, including precipitation and temperature patterns that may be changing in response to global climate change. RAND researchers are working with water agencies in California to help them better understand how climate change might affect their systems and what actions, if any, they should take to address this challenge. This briefing...

describes the last of four workshops held with the Inland Empire Utilities Agency in Southern California. The RAND team presents an analysis, based on robust decisionmaking methods, of how different adaptive watermanagement strategies may reduce the vulnerability of the region to climate change and other planning uncertainties."]
[Request #S08-11-1745]

Report. 100 p.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/documented\_briefings/2008/RAND\_DB550.pdf

Summary. 7 p.

 $\frac{http://www.rand.org/pubs/documented\_briefings/2008/RAND\_DB550.sum.}{pdf}$ 

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### GENERAL GOVERNMENT

### FEDERAL BUDGET

Quick Look: California Perspectives on the President's FY 2009 Budget Request. By the California Institute for Federal Policy Research. (The Institute, Washington, DC) Feb. 4 2008. Various pagings.

Full text at: <a href="http://www.calinst.org/pubs/Budget2009.shtml">http://www.calinst.org/pubs/Budget2009.shtml</a>

["In nearly 3,000 pages, the budget documents outline the Administration's recommendations for discretionary and mandatory spending, as well as its revenue proposals. The Budget proposes to spend \$3.1 trillion, a 0.3 percent increase in non-defense discretionary spending, a growth rate that is less than the rate of inflation for domestic programs. The Administration also projects the deficit will increase to \$410 billion. A portion of the deficit increase is attributable to an economic stimulus package."]
[Request #\$08-11-1795]

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#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOCES: A Model for Municipal Reform? By Robert B. Ward. IN: Government, Law and Policy Journal, vol. 9, no. 2 (Winter 2007) pp. 65-68.

Full text at: <a href="http://www.rockinst.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=14124">http://www.rockinst.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=14124</a>

["One of the most promising ideas for municipal reform could involve creation of yet another layer of local government. Just as the drive to consolidate school districts and their services in the 20th century led to creation of regional educational entities known as boards of cooperative

educational services ("BOCES"), a new type of regional entity to provide shared municipal services may merit consideration in the latest push for reform. This article explores the potential for creation of new, regional governmental entities on the BOCES model to give counties, cities, towns, villages, fire and special districts the same flexible opportunities to share services that school districts enjoy now. A related option would be to use BOCES themselves to serve municipal entities as they now serve school districts."]

[Request #S08-11-1871]

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### **HEALTH**

# **HEALTH INSURANCE**

In the Matter of the Arbitration between Patsy Bates and Health Net, Inc. IVAMS, Inc. BC321432. Interim Arbitraion Award (Binding). February 21, 2008. 21 p.

Full text at: http://www.calendarlive.com/media/acrobat/2008-02/35955051.pdf

["One of California's largest for-profit insurers stopped a controversial practice of canceling sick policyholders after a judge ordered Health Net Inc. to pay more than \$9 million to a breast cancer patient it dropped in the middle of chemotherapy. The ruling by a private arbitration judge was the first of its kind and the most powerful rebuke to the state's major insurers whose cancellation practices are under fire.... Judge Sam Cianchetti, a retired Los Angeles County Superior Court judge, ruled that the company broke state laws and acted in bad faith.... Health Net Chief Executive Jay Gellert ordered an immediate halt to cancellations and told The Times that the company would be changing its coverage applications and retraining its sales force." Los Angeles Times (February 23, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-11-1809]

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#### HOUSING

### FEDERAL HOUSING PROGRAMS

The Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, Did Not Adequately Administer Its Section 8 Voucher Program. By Joan Hobbs, Regional Inspector General. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (The Department, Los Angeles, California) February 8, 2008. 60 p.

Full text at: <a href="http://www.hud.gov/offices/oig/reports/files/ig0891007.pdf">http://www.hud.gov/offices/oig/reports/files/ig0891007.pdf</a>

["Federal auditors have called for the ouster of the Los Angeles County Housing Authority's director, saying his agency has not properly administered the \$200 million federal housing voucher program for the county's poor and has sought to conceal its shortcomings... The report criticizes the authority for failing to check annually, as required, on tenants' eligibility for subsidies under the federal Section 8 program. Some recipients were receiving more money than they were entitled to. ... The director of 17 years, Carlos Jackson, acknowledged past failings. But he said he had moved to correct the problems and denied intentionally misleading the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, which provides the funds." Los Angeles Times (February 18, 2008) 1.] [Request #S08-11-1787]

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### **HOME OWNERSHIP**

Weighing Alternative Policies for Tackling the Mortgage Mess. By Douglas W. Elmendorf, The Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) February 2008. 17 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Files/rc/papers/2008/02 mortgage elmendorf/0 2 mortgage emendorf.pdf

["Without government action, mortgage foreclosures will rise steeply for the next several years. Proposals for addressing this problem can be grouped into four categories -- improving mortgage-market functioning, exhorting certain private-sector actions, forcibly reducing amounts owed, and using significant government funds. Policies enacted or suggested within the first two categories likely will have just a moderate effect on foreclosures. Policies advocated in the latter two categories could have a larger effect, but only through notable changes in the legal backdrop or government financial commitment to mortgage lending. Policymakers should weigh the fairness of alternative approaches and effects on future mortgage credit together with the consequences of inaction for households and the overall economy."] [Request #S08-11-1874]

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# **HUMAN SERVICES**

### **CHILD CARE**

Designing Subsidy Systems to Meet the Needs of Families: An Overview of Policy Research Findings. By Gina Adams and others, The Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) February 2008. 72 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411611\_subsidy\_system.pdf

["Many state and local child care subsidy agencies have been redesigning their policies to better meet the needs of the families they serve, and to create more efficient and fiscally responsible systems. These strategies reflect states' growing understanding of the dynamic nature of low-income families' lives and of the challenges they face as they move toward stable employment. This report synthesizes findings from various research projects conducted by the Urban Institute (and other organizations), and lays out a range of policy strategies states are implementing to support eligible families in accessing and retaining child care subsidies."]
[Request #S08-11-1811]

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#### **CHILDREN**

Expediting Permanency for Abandoned Infants: Guidelines for State Policies and Procedures. By the National Abandoned Infants Assistance Resource Center. (The Center, Berkeley, California) 2007. 41 p.

Full text at: http://aia.berkeley.edu/media/pdf/expediting\_permanency\_2007.pdf

["This monograph reviews state laws regarding abandoned infants; suggests legal and practice standards regarding abandonment; defines permanency and suggests ways to incorporate this definition into state law and practice; and identifies best practices in expediting permanency for infants who are abandoned or at risk of abandonment."]
[Request #S08-11-1872]

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#### LOW INCOME

Helping Low-Wage Workers Persist in Education Programs: Lessons from Research on Welfare Training Programs and Two Promising Community College Strategies. By Lashawn Richburg-Hayes, MDRC. (MDRC, New York, New York) February 2008. 23 p.

Full text at: http://www.mdrc.org/publications/472/full.pdf

["Evaluations of education and basic skills training programs have yielded mixed results concerning their ability to increase earnings among low-income populations. This working paper summarizes what is known from evaluations about the effectiveness of education acquisition to advance the earnings and careers of low-wage workers. It then discusses two popular community college strategies intended to increase academic success among

this population: enhanced student services and performance-based scholarships. Recent research about performance-based scholarships suggests that they can have a large, positive effect on academic achievement among a predominately female, single-parent student population that faces multiple barriers to completing college."]
[Request #S08-11-1815]

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## TRANSPORTATION

### **PUBLIC TRANSIT**

Exploration of a Shift in Household Transportation Spending from Vehicles to Public Transportation. By Steven Polzin and others, National Center for Transit Research. (The Center, Tampa, Florida) January 2008. 63 p.

Full text at: <a href="http://www.nctr.usf.edu/pdf/77722.pdf">http://www.nctr.usf.edu/pdf/77722.pdf</a>

[Request #S08-11-1814]

["Interest continues in exploring how significant service increases might provide adequate transit capacity and sufficiently attractive service levels to attract enough ridership to offset the need of households for the current number of vehicles. Similarly, policy analysts speculate that the resources saved by households with fewer autos may represent a sufficient consumer benefit to justify or offset the higher subsidy costs necessary to provide the enhanced services. While speculation on this topic is common amongst transit planners and advocates, the literature currently offers little insight into this issue.... The research offers several observations regarding the magnitude of the behavior changes that might be expected with lower vehicle ownership as well as the capacity and cost of transit expansion required to accommodate the demands."]